

PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

College Relations and Marketing

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBCC wins national curriculum award

(Lake Worth, Fla. – January 25, 2006) - Palm Beach Community College's "Career Pathway" curriculum model has won the national Bellwether Award for programs or activities designed and successfully implemented to foster or support teaching and learning in the community college. The award was announced Tuesday at the National Community Colleges Futures Assembly in Orlando.

"This national award spotlights our continuous efforts to ensure that our curriculum is flexible, responsive and in tune with what our students need to be successful. This could not have happened without the faculty's support and leadership and our administrators' willingness to take risks and to cut as much red tape as we could from our systems," PBCC President Dr. Dennis P. Gallon said.

The College realigned its curriculum into the Career Pathway Model to allow students to seamlessly progress through career pathways. Students can start in clock-hour based instruction and transfer that learning into credit-based Associate in Science degrees. Along the pathway, students can use exit points to employment with recognized certificates.

"Our goal as we developed the career pathways was to make it easier for our students to see the linkages between programs and career opportunities, allowing them to progress smoothly in their chosen career paths. The dramatic rise in numbers of students completing these programs indicates that they are taking full advantage of the model," Dr. Sharon Sass, PBCC vice president of academic affairs, said.

Completion rates have soared from 423 certificate graduates in 2001 to more than 1,800 during 2005.

Part of the success of the program is a result of expanded information for students including employment opportunities, career path notes, admission and graduation requirements as well as program length and campus location. Development of these program descriptions is supported by a Federal Title III "Strengthening Institutions" grant.

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PBCC, a richly diverse comprehensive two-year institution with a history of achievement since 1933, offers more than 90 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Belle Glade and Palm Beach Gardens. PBCC is dedicated to serving the educational needs of Palm Beach County by providing associate degrees in arts and science, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning.

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